capital of Rs. 5000 crore for development of North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that instead of Development Bank some North-East Financial Development Corporation with capital of Rs. 100 crore has been set up;

(d) if so, the details thereof with reasons for such change;

(e) whether some terms of reference and detailed functions for this Corporation have been specified; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI-PROSAD PAL): (a) to (d) A Development Bank named as North Eastern Development Finance Corporation (NEDFi) has been registered with the Registrar of Companies, Shillong with its registered office at Guwahati. NEDFi's authorised share capital is Rs. 500 crores and it would have a subscribed capital of Rs. 100 crores.

(e) and (f) The functions of NEDFi *inter-alia* include identifying and developing entreprenèurship and finance the establishment of new industrial and infrastructure projects as well as expansion, diversification and modernisation of existing industrial enterprises in the North Eastern Region. NEDFi would also provide venture capital to encourage commercialisation of new and innovative goods and processes developed in the established research laboratories etc. and which are relevant to the economy of the region.

Evasion of customs duty by Reliance Industries

1163. SMT. KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a case of evasion of customs duty to the extent of Rs. 180 crores against Reliance Industries has been pending adjudication for over five years;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in adjudication proceedings; and

(c) by when the case is likely to be decided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir. A show cause notice was issued to M/s Reliance Industries Ltd. for evasion of customs duty of about Rs. 174 crores in import of a PTA Plant on 11.5.1990 by Commissioner, Customs, Bombay.

(b) and (c) Requirements of sifting through voluminous documents and their examination by both sides has taken time. The Government has engaged Additional Solicitor General of India for presenting its case. Personal hearings were granted on day-to-day basis including hearings in Delhi on 30.9.1995 and 1.10.1995. Submission and arguments by M/s Reliance Industries Ltd. has since been conceuded. The Additional Solicitor General has made his submission on behalf of the Government on day-to-day basis. Further hearings have been fixed for 13th, 14th and 15th March, 1996. The case is now at final stages of hearing and is likely to be finalised shortly.

Transfer of Foreign Exchange Outside the Country

1164. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identificd the banks and financial institutions responsible for unscrupulously transferring foreign exchange outside the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action initiated against such banks; and

(d) the directions issued to such banks to stop such practice in future?